## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

January 25, 2001 LB 313

one case already, we've already had the same school district apply twice because there were two different consolidations. the future as our population declines in certain areas of the state, which it is projected to do, you may well see, change nothing, a series of successive consolidations involving some of the same school districts, and then we would be paying incentive money not just once but twice and maybe three times over a not too long period of time for those consolidations. Maybe it would make some sense to look at configurations that looked at the state as a whole. This task force which is being up is designed to be as fair as possible in terms of representing all different kinds of people. The Chairperson of the Education Committee would be a part of it, two other members of the Education Committee, two more members of the Legislature, representative of teachers' а organization, representative of school administrators, one of school boards. Get a superintendent on it who has had some experience with consolidation, get a representative from small school districts, midsize school districts, get a representative from the business community with some experience in finance, and a number of a variety of people. And then take those people and ask them to do...to do two things; in Phase I of the study, ask them to determine and gather the information needed to assess the number and configuration of school districts in the standard cost grouping which would most efficiently and most fairly maximize the educational benefits to all the students of such districts considering the current resources available to the system as And to identify the fiscal resources that are necessary to do that kind of analysis and to make any detailed plan that they might see fit and determine to be appropriate. And then in Phase II of the study, simply have them ask the question of whether reduction or reconfiguration in any direction existing districts in the standard group, standard cost group is advisable and, if so, to recommend to the Legislature a plan to reconfigure the school districts in a way that maximizes the benefits for everybody so that you are looking not just at Districts 1 and 2 side by side, but Districts 3 and 4 to the and 5 and 6 to the south and 7 or 8 to the east, all of the districts, and which way the configurations ultimately are going to make sense. What we have now is a haphazard process which may or may not make sense when that piece of the puzzle is